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ABSTRACT

A follow-up study was made of the graduates of the 1973 Los Angeles City College registered nurse program in order to: (1) evaluate the program's effectiveness and value, (2) counsel current and future students in the program, (3) answer questions of legislators, accrediting bodies, and other interested groups, and (4) improve the quality of education at the college. To obtain the needed information, answers were sought for the following questions: (1) How successful were the students on the State Board Test Pool Examination? (2) How did the average scores on the five areas of the test compare with the average test scores of the graduates of the classes of 1958-1962? (3) How successful were they in finding employment? (4) What was their earning power? (5) What kind of attitudes did the graduates have toward the program? and (6) What recommendations, if any, did they suggest for improvement of the program? Questionnaires were sent to the 78 graduates of the 1973 program of which only 18 were returned. The responses are tabulated or listed. These show that the graduates had little trouble finding employment, and in areas of nursing that they preferred. Starting salaries were good. Only two respondents reported that they were currently enrolled in courses to further their education. A comparison of scores between the two groups of graduates showed that the department is preparing students as well today as it was previously. The study conclusion is that the college is providing a valuable service to the community through its nursing program. A copy of the questionnaire is provided. (DR)

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LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

ED 088556

"FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF GRADUATES FROM THE 1973 LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE REGISTERED NURSE PROGRAM"

JC 740 110

Research Study #74-2

Bennie J. Padilla
Research Office
March, 1974

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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM

INTRODUCTION

In June, 1965, a follow-up study of the first five Los Angeles City College registered nurse classes (1958-1962) was completed. The community college educational program for students of nursing was a new, somewhat experimental program, so the purpose of that study was an attempt to evaluate the program in terms of attrition and services to the community. (1:1) Since that time there have been no follow-up studies made to determine if the graduates of the registered nurse program are successful in meeting objectives of the program.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The purpose of this study was to follow-up on the graduates of the 1973 Los Angeles City College registered nurse program to provide information necessary to help:

1. Evaluate the effectiveness and value of the program
2. Counsel students currently in the program and those planning to apply for entrance in the future
3. Answer numerous questionnaires by legislators, accrediting bodies, and other interested groups
4. Improve the quality of education at Los Angeles City College

To provide this kind of information, answers to the following questions were sought: (1) how successful were the students on the State Board Test Pool Examination, (2) how did the average scores on the five areas of the test compare with the average test scores of the graduates of the classes of 1958-1962, (3) how successful were they in finding employment, (4) what was their earning power, (5) what kind of attitudes

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM (continued)

did the graduates have toward the program, (6) what recommendations, if any, did they suggest for improvement of the program.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

In order to be adequately informed when would-be students ask questions about vocational and educational training programs, counselors and department chairmen should have information readily available concerning their specific fields. Job placement, earning power, fringe benefits, and advancement opportunities within the field are some of the questions students want answered to help them determine what career to prepare for. The importance of this study was to gather this kind of information for the field of registered nursing.

Many training programs, especially those who's existence depends upon recruitment of new students, have built-in evaluation and follow-up procedures, so that data can be collected to justify their continuation. This is certainly true of most successful business enterprises and is a must for all federally funded educational programs. This study was also important because there had not been an attempt to follow-up on any of the graduates of the Los Angeles City College registered nurse program since the graduating classes of 1958-1962.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

The methods used to try to answer the questions sought by the follow-up study were (1) an examination of the results of the 1973 State Board Test Pool Examination, (2) contacting the local office of the Board of Nursing Education and Nurse Registration for retest results, (3) reviewing test scores of the nursing graduates from the classes of 1958-1962, and (4) use of a questionnaire to survey the 1973 graduates of the Los Angeles City College registered nurse program.

SUMMARY AND ORGANIZATION OF THE REMAINDER OF THE PROJECT

Many questions have been asked by various agencies and students regarding the success of graduates of the Los Angeles City College registered nurse program. One of the best ways to find answers is to go directly to the source, so an attempt was made to survey the most recent graduating class. Chapter 2 contains information regarding the success of the 1973 graduates on the State Board Test Pool Examination and how their average scores compared of 1958-1962. Chapter three discusses the responses to a questionnaire sent to all of the 1973 nursing graduates. Chapter four is a summary of the study including conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER II
PROCEDURES AND FINDINGS

SUCCESS OF THE 1973 GRADUATES ON THE STATE BOARD TEST POOL EXAMINATION

In June, 1973, seventy-eight students were certified as having completed the registered nurse curriculum at Los Angeles City College. This qualified them to take the State Board Test Pool Examination for licensure as registered nurses in California. The State Board Test Pool Examination is administered over a two day period and is divided into the following five areas of nursing: (1) medical, (2) surgical, (3) obstetric, (4) child, and (5) psychiatric. A minimum score of 350 on each of the five areas is required to pass. If a person fails one or more of the areas they are allowed to retake that area(s) which they failed, they do not have to retake the entire test.

Procedure - A copy of the results of the 1973 State Board Test Pool Examination was obtained from the Los Angeles City College Nursing Department. (3: no page)

All of the seventy-eight students who finished the nursing curriculum took the examination. Table 1 shows the results of the test with numbers used in place of the students' names.

TABLE 1 - Results of State Board Test Pool Examination

Candidate No.	MED NSG	SRG NSG	OBS NSG	CHL NSG	PSY NSG	INITIAL ATTEMPT	SECOND ATTEMPT
1.....	488	470	391	509	469	Passed	
2.....	398	423	258*	393	310*	Failed*	Passed
3.....	543	450	466	451	500	Passed	
4.....	598	503	608	589	667	Passed	
5.....	453	303*	258*	386	405	Failed*	Passed
6.....	508	456	524	502	508	Passed	
7.....	432	430	583	437	310*	Failed*	Passed
8.....	508	463	541	524	564	Passed	
9.....	515	503	524	531	564	Passed	
10.....	412	323*	391	531	381	Failed*	Passed
11.....	605	583	591	662	596	Passed	
12.....	467	343*	466	364	445	Failed*	
13.....	612	590	708	691	588	Passed	
14.....	439	483	441	386	262*	Failed*	Failed*
15.....	502	510	549	480	397	Passed	
16.....	426	490	508	502	389	Passed	
17.....	543	483	458	618	500	Passed	
18.....	564	450	566	567	548	Passed	
19.....	522	650	558	604	500	Passed	
20.....	495	476	466	473	445	Passed	
21.....	515	596	433	516	477	Passed	
22.....	654	583	574	560	453	Passed	
23.....	543	570	474	487	445	Passed	
24.....	543	550	499	633	564	Passed	
25.....	591	530	666	647	556	Passed	
26.....	605	503	591	625	604	Passed	
27.....	377	376	408	335*	453	Failed*	Passed
28.....	502	403	424	451	405	Passed	
29.....	605	590	574	654	516	Passed	
30.....	446	456	433	502	429	Passed	
31.....	578	576	666	662	580	Passed	
32.....	488	610	433	575	500	Passed	
33.....	405	530	533	546	421	Passed	
34.....	598	583	558	647	612	Passed	
35.....	453	343*	466	458	469	Failed*	Passed
36.....	640	650	608	625	508	Passed	
37.....	453	383	408	458	357	Passed	
38.....	460	436	308*	335*	477	Failed*	
39.....	446	490	449	524	461	Passed	
40.....	591	343*	491	444	445	Failed*	Passed
41.....	571	483	599	531	604	Passed	
42.....	647	623	658	625	445	Passed	
43.....	550	463	541	444	421	Passed	
44.....	460	390	399	444	342*	Failed*	Passed

Continued on next page

TABLE 1 (continued)

Candidate No.	MED NSG	SRG NSG	OBS NSG	CHL NSG	PSY NSG	INITIAL ATTEMPT	SECOND ATTEMPT
45.....	495	610	624	546	612	Passed	
46.....	481	510	633	567	508	Passed	
47.....	571	510	508	473	516	Passed	
48.....	564	570	591	618	540	Passed	
49.....	508	556	574	516	532	Passed	
50.....	460	450	466	422	516	Passed	
51.....	467	530	533	444	556	Passed	
52.....	398	476	499	444	310*	Failed*	Failed*
53.....	508	590	524	604	540	Passed	
54.....	384	396	424	495	477	Passed	
55.....	564	503	499	538	564	Passed	
56.....	287*	249*	191*	270*	246*	Failed*	Passed
57.....	571	610	533	604	596	Passed	
58.....	571	490	591	538	540	Passed	
59.....	757	690	699	705	675	Passed	
60.....	495	376	424	386	413	Passed	
61.....	702	643	649	705	604	Passed	
62.....	536	490	491	502	445	Passed	
63.....	647	570	574	604	627	Passed	
64.....	495	503	533	451	373	Passed	
65.....	578	430	524	480	516	Passed	
66.....	432	490	524	546	604	Passed	
67.....	702	676	674	662	723	Passed	
68.....	467	383	508	509	580	Passed	
69.....	515	516	474	560	469	Passed	
70.....	453	530	441	553	516	Passed	
71.....	543	556	624	575	453	Passed	
72.....	460	503	549	487	357	Passed	
73.....	522	543	499	662	604	Passed	
74.....	647	570	574	618	540	Passed	
75.....	488	430	508	546	477	Passed	
76.....	439	396	341*	429	477	Failed*	Passed
77.....	598	456	524	633	469	Passed	
78.....	688	636	658	596	643	Passed	
Averages.....	522	498	513	527	494		
No. Passing...	77	72	73	75	72		
No. Failing...	1	6	5	3	6		

Findings - Of the seventy-eight Los Angeles City College graduates who took the test, sixty-four passed it on their initial attempt. Ten of the fourteen who failed the examination failed one area of the test, three failed two areas, and one failed all five areas. The local office of the Board of Nursing Education and Nurse Registration was contacted to obtain results for students who repeated the area (s) of the test that they failed on the first try. On the retest, ten passed, two failed, and no information was available for the remaining students. Since the local office is responsible for information regarding retesting, the two students for whom there was no information may have taken the retest in another area of the State.

On a whole, the Los Angeles City College nursing students did quite well, with 82% passing on the first attempt and 95% passing after two attempts. No statistics are available at this time regarding percentage of students passing or failing on a State-wide basis. This information would be valuable for comparison purposes. With 95% of the nursing graduates passing the examination and earning the registered nurse license, Los Angeles City College is providing a valuable service to the community by making a program available that not only gives students a chance to upgrade themselves, it also trains people to fill vacancies in the critical area of nursing.

COMPARISON OF AVERAGE TEST SCORES

One of the best ways of evaluating the success of nursing graduates is to compare them in some way to former nursing graduates of the same program using a known criterion under the same circumstances.

COMPARISON OF AVERAGE TEST SCORES (continued)

Procedure - A copy of a study completed in June, 1965 was obtained from the Los Angeles City College Research Center. The study, entitled, "Follow-up Study of the First Five L.A.C.C. Registered Nursing Classes -- 1958-1962 provided the information for comparison. Table 2 gives the averages of each class and the average of the total scores of the first five classes. (1:10) These averages, as were the averages in Table 1, were compiled by using scores made by the students on their first examination.

TABLE 2 - Median Scores of the Los Angeles City College Nursing Graduates Made on the California State Board Test Pool Examination for Registered Nurses

Nursing Class	Number Taking Test	Medical	Surgical	Obstetric	Child	Psychiatric
1958	17	564	534	539	538	542
1959	21	568	546	553	537	554
1960	32	545	545	553	541	536
1961	27	475	490	490	475	481
1962	35	487	467	462	441	484
TOTAL	132	522	508	514	500	513

Findings - Of the 132 graduates from the classes of 1958-1962, 106 or 80% passed the test on their initial attempt, as compared to 82% for the 1973 class. Seventeen of the failures from the 1958-1962 classes passed the test on the second attempt, making it a total of 123 out of 132 passing the examination for a 93% completion rate, compared to 74 of 78, or 95% for the 1973 graduates.

Table 3, "Comparison of Average Test Scores" on the five areas of the test for the classes of 1958-1962 as compared to average scores for the 1973 graduates.

TABLE 3 - Comparison of Average Test Scores

Nursing Class	Number Taking Test	Medical	Surgical	Obstetric	Child	Psychiacric
1958-1962	132	522	508	514	500	513
1973	78	522	498	513	527	494

In comparing the two groups, Table 3 shows that there were no significant differences on average scores in the areas of medical and obstetric nursing. Note that the average scores in medical nursing were exactly the same and there was only one point difference in the area of obstetric nursing. The 1958-1962 graduates scored higher in the areas of surgical and psychiatric nursing, while the 1973 graduates averaged higher on children's nursing.

CHAPTER III
FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONNAIRE

Before students start taking required courses for specific vocational objectives they want to know what their chances are for job placement, starting salaries, fringe benefits, etc. One of the important reasons for this study was to attempt to answer some of the most frequently asked questions regarding graduates of the Los Angeles City College registered nurse program.

Procedure - Permission to use a questionnaire designed for use as part of a follow-up study of Pierce College nursing graduates was granted by James R. Lagerstrom, Office of Research, Los Angeles Pierce College. (2:15) Copies of the questionnaire were shown to several of the nursing faculty, and the department chairman for their approval and/or suggestions. The addresses of the 1973 graduates were obtained from the secretary of the nursing

Procedure (continued)

department. The questionnaire (see appendix B), a cover letter (see appendix A), and a return, stamped envelope were mailed to all 78 of the graduates.

Of the 78 questionnaires sent to the graduates, 13 were not delivered because the students had moved and no forwarding address was available. Of the 65 students to whom mail was apparently delivered only 18 returned the questionnaires, a 28% return. This is an inadequate sample to make any valid conclusions, however, the answers to the questions on the questionnaire are tallied and shown in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1 - Replies to Nursing Follow-up Questionnaire

A. Employment:

Full-time	17
Part-time (4 days a week)	1
Not presently employed	0

Employers:

Century City Hospital	1
Mount Sinai Hospital	2
Hospital of Good Samaritan	1
Kaiser Hospital	1
San Francisco General	1
San Gabriel Conv.Hospital	1
Daniel Freeman	1
Cedars of Lebanon	1
LA/USC Medical Center	2
Orthopedic Hospital	1
Hollywood Presbyterian Hosp	1
Huntington Memorial	1
No answer	4

How many places did you apply for work as an RN before finding employment?

1	11
2	1
3 or more	2
No answer	4

B. Position:

Staff nurse	13
Team leader	10
Head nurse	1

C. Area:

Medical/surgical	10
Operating room	0
Geriatrics convalescence	1
Psychiatric	1
Emergency	0
Pediatrics	1
Obstetrics	0
Other: ICU/CCU, Burn Unit, Recovery room, Orthopedics, Urology	5

Is this the area you would prefer to work? Yes - 15 No - 3

D. Shift:

Days	5
Evenings	9
Nights	2
Other (rotation)	2

E. Salary:

Less than $500/mo	0	$800-899/mo	14
500-599/mo	1	900-999/mo	2
600-699/mo	0	1000 or more/mo	1
700-799/mo	0		

F. Did you sign an employment contract?

Yes	2
No	15
No answer	1

G. Fringe Benefits:

Retirement plan	8
Health insurance	18
Dental insurance	5
Life insurance	12
Education incentive	10
Other (promotional opportunity)	1

PART II
EDUCATION

A. Are you currently enrolled in classes to further your education? Yes - 4 No - 13. If yes where?

California State University at Fullerton - 1
California State University at Los Angeles - 1
Los Angeles City College - 1

Part II (continued)

B. Do you plan on further education?

No - 1 Yes, BS degree - 8 (Major-Nursing (2)

Where? CSULA - 2 UCSF - 1 UC - 1 Not known - 2

Yes - 1 (MS degree) Major-Critical care

Where? CSULA Yes, just some extra courses - 9

PART III
TRANSITION FROM STUDENT TO REGISTERED NURSE

A. I had trouble with:	Much	Some	Little	None
Getting along with peers and ancillary personnel	0	1	4	13
Supervising.....	0	6	2	15
Technical procedures.....	0	5	8	7
Getting along with doctors.....	1	0	7	10
Organization of unit.....	0	3	7	8
Size of work load.....	2	6	5	5

B. What tasks does your job require for which you had no training or education?

1. Being in charge of emergency.
2. Nothing that experience didn't help.
3. Decision making-knowing exactly what my authority was and its' limitations.
4. Only the technicalities found in a specialty unit.
5. Transcribing doctor's orders and supervising.
6. I can't say I had no training, just not enough knowledge of I.V's, management, and total responsibility of everything on your shoulders.
7. Giving I.V.'s.
8. Work with respirators, chest suction.
9. Cardiac Arrhythmias.
10. How to handle being a team leader, how to get people to do their jobs and still like you. Maybe this comes with experience.
11. Charge positions when the hospital is short-staffed. If you are not strong you'll go crazy with the hassle of being in charge.
12. None.
13. Gavaging infants. Education, but no experience.

C. Are there some courses or aspects of your nursing education which could be deleted or reduced in importance?

Yes..... 4 No..... 9

If yes, which areas?

1. More training for charge nurse and team leading duties. Less time spent on bed baths, first semester is enough.
2. Nursing 7 should be deleted, more time in laboratory, demonstrating prcedures.
3. Microbiology as a separate course from nursing. I found what I learned was not useful except in rare cases.

Part III (continued)

4. Once you master the basic skills; bed baths, etc. more emphasis should be put on technical skills such as cath., I.V's, dressings.
5. I don't think we spent enough time in actual clinical experience. I would loved to have spent more time than the one day in the CCU when I was a student.

D. Are there some courses <u>other than nursing</u> which should be deleted from the requirements for the nursing program? Yes - 5, No - 8
If yes, which courses?

1. Microbiology. I found what I learned was not useful, except in rare cases.
2. Chemistry, political science, etc. Do you need these classes is a question that may never be answered. A well rounded college education gives you a better perspective, but does it make you a better nurse?
3. English, speech, P. E., electives have no use. Make the program all nursing, creating new courses for more nursing.
4. Physical Education.
5. Speech. Speech stinks (smile). All of the other courses are necessary for furthering your education should you so desire.
6. It seems that way while you are attending classes, but now that I am graduated I'm grateful for <u>ALL</u> of them.

E. What are the major strengths of the Los Angeles City College nursing program?

1. The courses are tailor made to meet just about all the needs in nursing. If not all the answers, then where to look!
2. Fast, short, concise.
3. Variety of hospital facilities in which we practiced.
4. Certain psychiatric teacher helped a lot. OB is good. I would say a lot of strengths depending on which teacher one had.
5. Good faculty, excellent clinical instruction-Excellent theory.
6. Very good in med/surg. and Ob/ped.
7. Training in many hospitals.
8. It gives you an excellent background to be a nurse.
9. I was able to work in different hospital atmospheres without feeling insecure-from Mt. Sinai to Temple hospital.
10. Clinical variation helped us remain open-minded.
11. Education with experience-Nursing care plans-post care conferences.
12. Training at various hospitals allowed easier adaptability to new surroundings.
13. Major strengths I would say included all courses in the entire two years.

F. What are the major weaknesses of the program?

1. None.
2. Insufficient clinical experience to shortness of program.
3. Evaluations given by instructors never seemed suitable to the persons receiving them.
4. None.
5. Not enough time in the hospitals.
6. None.

F. What are the major weaknesses of the program? (continued)

7. More time should be spent in ICU/CCU.
8. Can't really find any.
9. Not enough about doctor's orders or team leading. Need training in how to conduct self in a position of authority. Getting along with ancillary personnel and still getting them to work.
10. Too little clinical experience. No experience in being in charge of an entire floor.
11. Not enough actual on-the-job nursing or actual responsibilities.
12. The course in the summer is far too short. Should be at least twelve weeks to cover such important material.
13. Not enough practical experience in all areas of nursing. Not enough assisting doctors at bedside.

G. What changes would you recommend for improving the nursing program at Los Angeles City College?

1. More practical experience and longer lab day-for example 7 am-3 pm to hear report and see the results on an eight hour day instead of four hour reactions.
2. More work with nursing care plans and home going plans for patients and family.
3. More practical and technical nursing such as: passing medicines, changing dressings, ostomy care, NG tube insertion and care, talking with patients about their care, i.e., patient teaching and counseling.
4. The program per say is fine. I wish I had had more experience in critical care. Should stress the problem of team leading and internal staff problems.
5. Should have check-off lists for things done such as: enemas, cath's., injections, to make sure everyone gets a taste of everything.
6. None.
7. Make the program two years of real nursing, and I mean two whole years, with no courses in between.
8. Just keeping up to date in courses.
9. More time in the hospitals, more communication between teachers and students, and students and students.
10. More psychology before psychiatric nursing.
11. Teaching aids were very helpful, there should be more of them.
12. Part-time employment as a nurse-aid should be mandatory. At least one day per week throughout the program.
13. I would recommend that psychiatric and mental health nursing be given in second semester.

H. Is nursing what you thought it was going to be?

Yes - 10 No - 3. In what ways was it different?

1. I have found that some patients regard you as their servant.
2. Indescribable-something I can experience more than describe.
3. Too many headaches, paperwork, responsibilities, too little time with patients.
4. It's too bad a group of women can't go into a job to work.

H. Is nursing what you thought it was going to be? (continued)

5. It carries a responsibility not commensurate with salary.
6. Tremendous responsibility requiring great adjustment.

I. Is there anything you would like to add?

1. Nursing would be fine except for the few prima donnas shedding uptight feelings around for all to share. But that's human nature rather than just, "nursing".
2. I think I have been well prepared to handle most nursing jobs.
3. First I would like to congratulate all the instructors for being so great and helpful. It is only when you are out in the field working that you recognize the values of the program. Keep it up. I think we should add more time for psychiatric and special areas for the students.
4. I feel students could use something like a check-off system where each task would be checked off when student has done it once. Some students never speak up and then complain of their lack of experience after graduation.
5. I'm finding pediatric nursing a most challenging and enjoyable career. I feel the course prepared me, but the experience I had working part-time was most valuable. I think if a student could squeeze in working one or two days a week they might not feel so uptight about not enough patient care days.
6. I enjoyed every day I attended Los Angele City College. I have nothing but the best to say for each and every faculty member I was privileged to study under. May I take this opportunity to say "Thank you" for my nursing career and all the good feelings I have about nursing. It's the nicest experience I ever encountered being at your school.
7. I was an LVN for almost nine years which should have been an advantage. I was always torn between showing my skills and being put down, or just being quiet. I'm glad I took the basic nursing class because I learned the basic theories and it was a good review class. However, the lab was a total waste. It's difficult to teach at all levels. I propose that the students without experience be given extra help. LVN's should be taught the way LACC wants things done then checked off.

A list of procedures that have to be done in nursing 1 and 2 should be given and completed so that all students learn basic procedures before graduating. Of course, this all takes time and money, which LACC has trouble with. The instructors should be good nurses, not all, though most, were. They should care, as many of them did. At the end of the program, more responsibility should be put on the student. We definitely need more team leading, supervising, and managing. Perhaps I was at a disadvantage, staying at the same place I worked as an LVN. The "new" graduate probably got a better orientation at other places. Assuming a new role where you worked before is extremely difficult. One week they are reluctant to leave me alone, the next, I'm in charge all the time. Enough! I'm proud to be a LACC graduate!

Findings - The graduates of the 1973 Los Angeles City College nursing program who answered the questionnaire had very little trouble finding employment, with seventeen of the eighteen finding full-time employment. The one person working part-time was working four days a week. They didn't have to hunt around for jobs with eleven finding employment on their first application.

The areas of nursing for which the graduates were hired varied with more than half working in medical/surgical nursing. Fifteen of the eighteen preferred to work in the area for which they were hired, so they seem satisfied with their positions.

Starting salaries seemed to be relatively high, with fourteen of the eighteen earning salaries between $800-899/month, one started at $500-599/ month, two at $900-999/month, and one at over $1000 per month. Only two of the graduates signed employment contracts, these were the two who were working at LAC/ USC Medical Center.

Although most of the graduates are not currently enrolled in classes to further their education, most are contemplating continuing education.

In the transition from student to registered nurse most of the graduates had little or no trouble. The areas where some concern was shown were: supervising, and size of work load. These are two areas of nursing where students get very little experience because of their circumstance of being a student. Tasks for which the the graduates indicated they had little education and no training were special areas which in-service training usually provides. The major weaknesses and recommendations for change were concerned with not enough time in the clinical area and the learning of technical skills. The major strengths of the program according to the graduates were the quality of the instructors and the many clinical facilities which are used.

CHAPTER IV
SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is a need to have follow-up studies of graduates, especially when they go directly from the training institution to the job. Follow-up studies provide valuable information including: job placement, earning power, and attitudes of graduates toward the training program.

The purpose of this study was to follow up on the graduates of the 1973 Los Angeles City College registered nurse program to provide information necessary to help:

1. Evaluate the effectiveness and value of the program.
2. Counsel students currently in the program and those planning to apply for entrance in the future.
3. Answer numerous questionnaires by legislators, accrediting bodies, and other interested groups.
4. Improve the quality of education at Los Angeles City College.

This chapter is concerned with a summary of the study, and conclusions and recommendations.

SUMMARY

To provide the information necessary to help answer some of the questions posed by this study required an examination of the scores of the 1973 State Board Test Pool Examination, comparing test scores of the 1973 graduates against test scores of the classes of 1958-1962, and the use of a questionnaire to survey the 1973 graduates.

A minimum score of 350 is required on five areas of nursing in order to pass the State Board Test Pool Examination. Seventy-eight graduates of the Los Angeles City College nursing program took the State Board Test Pool Examination. Eighty-two percent passed the test on their initial attempt, with

SUMMARY (continued)

ninety-five percent passing after two attempts. A study of the first five Los Angeles City College nursing classes was conducted in 1965. A comparison of average scores on the test showed that eighty percent of the graduates from the classes of 1958-1962 passed the test on their first attempt, with ninety-three percent passing after two attempts. When using the average scores on the five areas of the test to compare the two groups, there was little difference in the areas of medical and obstetric nursing. The 1958-1962 graduates scored higher in the areas of surgical and psychiatric nursing, while the 1973 graduates scored higher in the area pediatric nursing.

A questionnaire was mailed to all of the 1973 graduates. Thirteen were returned because the students had moved and no forwarding address was available. Because of a time factor, only eighteen answered questionnaires (28%) had been returned by the time this study was being finalized. Those graduates who did answer the questionnaire had little trouble finding employment. Most of them were able to find employment on their first attempt and in areas of nursing where they preferred to work. Starting salaries were good with most of the graduates starting at salaries between $800-$899 per month. Only two reported that they were currently enrolled in courses to further their education, however, most of them are contemplating continuing their education in the future.

Most of the graduates had little or no trouble making the transition from student to registered nurse. Tasks for which they felt they had little education or training centered around areas that experience and in-service education usually provide.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no doubt that Los Angeles City College is providing a valuable service to the community. First it is making available an educational program that is successfully training students to enter the job market at substantial salaries. Ninety-five percent of the nursing graduates from the class of 1973

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

had received their licenses and the other five percent were still eligible to retest so by the time this study was completed it is possible that they had passed the exam. With persistence and time this information could also be gathered to make the study more complete. An effort should be made in future studies to collect information regarding percentage of examinees passing on first and second attempts on a state-wide basis for comparison purposes. The second valuable service provided by the Los Angeles City College nursing program is that of training people to help fill the need in a critical area. Nursing has almost always been a situation where the demand has been greater than the supply.

The comparison of scores between the two groups of graduates shows that the nursing department is preparing students as well today as they were in 1958-1962. The State Board Test Pool Examination is constantly being updated to take into consideration advancements in the field of nursing and the graduates are testing as well if not better than they did in the past.

This kind of follow-up study should be conducted on a yearly basis. The graduating students of 1974 will be told in advance of the importance of follow-up studies and to expect to receive a questionnaire within six months after graduation. They will be asked to self address envelopes and notify either the nursing department secretary or the nursing counselor if they move. This will help eliminate the poor response. A copy of this study will be given to the Los Angeles City College nursing department so that they might consider some of the recommendations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

UNPUBLISHED WORKS

1. Dodson, Leigh M. "Follow-up Study of First Five Los Angeles City College Registered Nursing Classes 1958-1962." Los Angeles City College: Research Study 65-7, June, 1965. (Mimeographed)

2. Lagerstrom, James R. "An Empirical Analysis of the First Graduating Class of the Pierce College Nursing Program." Los Angeles Pierce College: Research Report 72-03, April, 1972. (Mimeographed)

APPENDIX A

COVER LETTER

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE
855 North Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90029

January 30, 1974

Dear

The Los Angeles City College Nursing Department is conducting a follow-up study of graduates from the 1973 registered nurse program.

The purpose of this study is to provide information necessary to help:

1. Evaluate the effectiveness and value of the program.
2. Counsel students currently in the program and those planning to apply for entrance in the future.
3. Answer numerous questionnaires by legislative and accrediting groups.
4. Improve the quality of education at Los Angeles City College.

It will, therefore, be very much appreciated if you would take the time to fill in the enclosed questionnaire and return it as soon as possible in the enclosed envelope. (By February 13 please).

Sincerely,

Ada L. Kirkland, R.N.

Ada Louise Kirkland
Nursing Department Chairperson

Bennie J. Padilla

Bennie J. Padilla
Nursing Counselor

ALK-BJP:e
Enclosures

APPENDIX B

LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE
NURSING FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME (Voluntary) _____
(Last) (First) (M.I.)

PART I

A. Employment

_____ Full-time (employer) _____
_____ Part-time (employer) _____
_____ Not presently employed (reason) _____
_____ How many places did you apply for work as an RN before finding employment? _____

B. Position

_____ Staff Nurse _____ Team Leader _____ Head Nurse

C. Area

_____ Medical/Surgical
_____ Operating Room
_____ Geriatrics convalescence
_____ Psychiatric
_____ Emergency
_____ Pediatrics
_____ Obstretrics
_____ Other (specify) _____

Is this the area you would prefer to work?

Yes___ No___

If no, which area:

_____

D. Shift: _____ Days (hours)_____ _____ P.M. (hours) _____
_____ Nights (hours)_____ _____ Other (hours)_____

E. Salary

_____ Less than $500/mo
_____ 500-599/mo
_____ 600-699/mo
_____ 700-799/mo
_____ 800-899/mo
_____ 900-999/mo
_____ 1000 or over/mo

F. Did you sign an employment contract? Yes_____ No_____

G. Fringe Benefits

_____ Retirement plan
_____ Health insurance
_____ Dental insurance
_____ Life insurance
_____ Education incentive (Tuition or other) _____
_____ Other _____
_____

PART II

EDUCATION

A. Are you currently enrolled in classes to further your education?

_____ yes _____no. If yes, where?_____

B. Do you plan on further education?

_____no
_____yes, BS degree (Major)_____ Where?_____
_____yes, MS degree (Major)_____ Where?_____
_____yes, just some extra courses
_____other _____

PART III

TRANSITION FROM STUDENT TO REGISTERED NURSE

(Please check one in each line)

	much	some	little	none
A. I had trouble with:				
getting along with peers and ancillary personnel	____	____	____	____
supervising	____	____	____	____
technical procedures	____	____	____	____
getting along with doctors	____	____	____	____
organization of unit	____	____	____	____
size of work load	____	____	____	____

B. What tasks does your job require for which you had no training or education?

_____

_____

_____

C. Are there some courses or aspects of your nursing education which could be deleted or reduced in importance? ____yes ____no. If yes, which areas?

_____

_____

Why? _____

_____

D. Are there some courses other than nursing which should be deleted from the requirements for the nursing program? _____yes _____ no. If yes, which courses? _____

_____

Why? _____

_____

Nursing follow-up questionnaire (continued)

E. What are the major strengths of the Los Angeles City College nursing program?

_____

_____

F. What are the major weaknesses of the program?

_____

_____

G. What changes would you recommend for improving the nursing program at LACC?

_____

_____

_____

H. Is nursing what you thought it was going to be? _____ yes _____ no. In what ways was it different? _____

_____

I. Is there anything you would like to add? Feel free to write on the back of these sheets - use additional paper if necessary.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

APR 19 1974

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGE
INFORMATION